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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John C. Hiatt, Jr., et al.

Appl. No.: 10/017,040

Conf. No.:

Filed: December 6, 2001

Title: DELAYED START FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT AND METHOD FOR  
CONVERTING DELAYED START FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT TO A  
STANDARD OPTION

Art Unit: 2161

Examiner:

Docket No.: 113609-002

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.

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